

include Laurinburg Pond (within Site 21), Good News Bay (Site 30), and Stateline Prairie Bay (Site 31). Within both variants, dense stands of graminoids dominate the herb layer, with species such as maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*) being dominant in many bays. Rare herbs, such as awned meadow-beauty (*Rhexia aristosa*), are present in most such bays; and the state's only population of Canby's dropwort (*Oxypolis canbyi*) is present in this community at Big Cypress Meadow.

Coastal Plain Depression Swamp. This is a type of natural community that will appear in the Fourth Approximation of "The Natural Communities of North Carolina" (Schafale, in prep.). This community occurs mainly in Carolina bays and other depressions, where the vegetation is not obviously a Cypress Savanna (clay-based bay) or a pocosin community (peat-based bay). This community may well represent, at least in Scotland County, a long fire-suppressed Cypress Savanna, but it may be a valid type on its own. The county has a number of Carolina bays with this "new" community, where the dominant trees include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and/or swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*). Most have a "bay"/pocosin component, with redbay (*Persea palustris*) and other evergreens in the subcanopy and shrub layers. Atlantic white-cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) may be present in some bays.

Wet Pine Flatwoods. In some parts of the lower Coastal Plain, this community merges with Mesic Pine Flatwoods. However, in Scotland County, Wet Pine Flatwoods typically are found in broad flats at the base of sandhill slopes, adjacent to Streamhead Pocosins. Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill normally lies upslope of Wet Pine Flatwoods. Longleaf pine, and at times pond pine (*P. serotina*), is the canopy dominant. Areas that are frequently burned have little understory. Typical species of the community are creeping blueberry (*Vaccinium crassifolium*), dwarf waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera* var. *pumila*), and pyxie-moss (*Pyxidanthera barbulata*). Dense stands of sweet pepperbush and dangleberry often occur along the wetter ecotone with Streamhead Pocosin. Herbaceous plants include several species of meadow-beauties (*Rhexia* spp.) and yellow-eyed-grasses (*Xyris* spp.).

Peatland Atlantic White Cedar Forest. This community is essentially limited in the state to the lower Coastal Plain, typically embedded in Pond Pine Woodland and/or Nonriverine Swamp Forest communities. In the wedge of Southern Inner Coastal Plain sediments that occur between the Lumber River/Drowning Creek and upland Sandhills in northeastern Scotland County, a few tiny areas within Pond Pine Woodlands appear to represent this community. The white-cedar generally is the dominant canopy tree, but other trees such as pond pine or red maple are usually present.

Streamhead Atlantic White Cedar Forest. This community occurs in narrow bands along streams, in the county mainly limited to the Sandhills region. However, because scattered Atlantic white-cedar frequently occurs in the county, generally within the Streamhead Pocosin community, the cutoff between the two communities can be difficult to determine. There are few places in Scotland County where the cedar dominates the canopy (and be considered as